



## Speen Church of England School

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July 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Summer Term newsletter. If this is your last term as a Speen parent I really hope you and your child/children have enjoyed your time at the School. I wish you and your families all the very best wherever you may be moving on to and a very happy summer.

We are pleased to share with you the latest academic attainment results just published with comparisons from county and national schools.

### Key Stage 1 Attainment:

End Of Year 2 Pupils assessed as achieving the expected standard for KS1 or having reached Greater Depth

Teacher Assessment	% Of pupils reaching the Expected Standard and at greater depth				% Of pupils reaching Greater Depth		
	2016	LA	Nat	2017	2016	Nat	2017
English Reading	100	77%	74%	94	82	24%	63
English Writing	82	65%	65%	88	18	13%	19
Mathematics	91	72%	73%	88	45	18%	38

This puts us in the top 10%, overall of schools in the local authority for this measure.

### Year One Phonics Screen:

Year	2016	LA	Nat	2017
% Pass	93.3	81%	81%	90

This puts us in the top 10% of schools in the local authority for this measure and we are over 16 percentage points above the 2015/16 national average.

### Year Two Cumulative Phonics Screen:

Year	2016	LA	Nat	2017
% Pass	100	93%	91%	100

This puts us amongst the very top schools in the local authority for this measure and we are 9 percentage points above the 2015/16 national average.

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) results:

### **Percentage of Pupils achieving a Good Level of Development**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>LA</b>	<b>Nat</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>% GLD</b>	56.3%	71%	69%	68.75%

In Early Years, a good level of development is defined as having achieved at least the Expected level in all Prime Areas (Communication & Language, Physical Development, PSED) and in Literacy and Maths. When children first enter formal education the initial results can often be variable and take a little time to settle down, particularly with the variability introduced by the small classes (and hence small sample sizes). We are very pleased that the results have improved significantly in the last year and are now broadly in line with local authority and national figures.

The national (Nat) and Local Authority (LA) data for 2017 will not be available until later in the year, however the form will be updated when published.

Your children have all worked hard to achieve these extremely good results, so I would like to say a big “Well Done” to all of them, and to recognise the efforts of all the staff to help the School’s children to achieve them. A heartfelt thanks to all from the governors.

## Forest School Development

We are excited to share our news of offering regular planned Forest School sessions jointly with Speen Pre-School for the new Autumn Term, either held within our own stunning grounds or at Ridgley’s Field which is a designated village amenity. This will give us scope to expand the concept of outdoor learning and work alongside pre-trained staff. Further, Mrs Hayman will be embarking on an accredited Forest School training course at the beginning of next term which will equip her with the expertise to run such initiatives and will be a further asset to the School. We are proud to be able to offer this unique opportunity to learn through practical activities set in an exhilarating outdoor environment totally removed from the traditional classroom setting. The experience provides all children with the opportunity to explore the outdoors, work together and build self esteem, to problem solve and engage physically and socially. Further specifics about activities will be announced in the new term.

## Changes to the Governing Body

We are delighted to welcome the Minister of Speen Baptist church - Heather MacIntyre - to the Governing Body from September and very much look forward to working with her. Further details of all of our School Governors and their responsibilities, including on the various committees can be found on the School Website under the “Meet our Governors” tab. During this term we have had to say good-bye to Alistair Scott (parent governor), Leanne Warner and Charlotte Barlow (both associate governors). Thanks to all three of them for their contributions; we wish them all the best. We are still very keen to recruit two Parent Governors and welcome your interest as a vital link between Parents, School and the Governing Body. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the Governors’ email address, shown above, if you have any questions about the role.

## Finance

As you will all be aware these continue to be challenging times for school finances throughout the country, not least in a small school such as ours where variations in the school roll of a few children either way can make an enormous difference to the budget allocation we receive. The governors are committed to putting the provision of the right resources to benefit the educational experience of the children in the School as a top priority (a current example, as mentioned above, is Forest School). For this reason, we have for the

second year running chosen to declare a deficit budget for the year, using money from our strategic contingency built up in better past years to subsidise the costs of the current financial year. We are fortunate that at the moment we have the funds to do this, and we continue to manage the School's finances very prudently whilst using our reserves when it is in the best interests of your children.

However, the fact that we are dipping into our reserve funds does emphasise the importance of attracting more children to the School: this is currently a major focus of governors and will remain so over the next year.

### Surveys

You will have received three short surveys via Mrs Moore this week and if you would be kind enough to complete them in order for us to take your views in to account when planning clubs, homework and parenting events for the term ahead, we would be most grateful.

### Parenting Course

We are hoping to offer a subsidised Parenting Course in the Autumn Term, something we know other Schools run and many parents welcome, particularly at the beginning of their children's journey through education. We hope that many of you would be interested in participating in such a course, but please do let us know your interest via the survey link that has been sent to you today.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and we hope you have found it informative. We welcome any feedback from you on the content of the newsletters, or any ideas of items you would like us to cover in future issues. And don't forget, you can contact the Governors by e-mail at the above address.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eamonn Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Eamonn Barrett  
Chair of Governors

